



# A TOUCH OF STONE

## 2024

# APRIL NEWSLETTER

Bonjour stone aficionados,

No jokes here, April is already in full swing! And it is looking so promising with some beautiful new projects and new techniques we are putting together. April is known for the rebirth, regrowth and renewal season and I see lots of you are planting your ideas and starting to put together your projects for your summer remodeling. So many great ideas that I cannot wait to put together with you.

Our new showroom on Ellsworth Industrial Blvd is doing good. Our appointments fill up fast as it is still a "By appointment only location". So reach out if you would like to meet there.

Two upcoming up events this month that are exciting for us:

1. **Southeastern Showhouse** event that starts April 18th. This is month long event benefiting Camp Twinlakes. We did not participate in this event but we support our community for such a great cause. Hope to see you there! Get your tickets [HERE!](#)

2. **Coverings 2024** which takes place in Atlanta this year. Coverings is the largest and most significant ceramic tile and natural stone conference and exhibition in the U.S. and North America. Coverings 2024 will feature more than 1,000 global exhibitors from 40 countries and will set the stage for introducing some of the world's most innovative tile and stone products.

So you know where I will be from April 22nd to the 25th. Can't wait to see all of the new goodies! And bring them back to you to share!

*xoxo*  
*Marylene Briere*



# GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE RIGHT FINISH FOR YOUR NATURAL STONE COUNTERTOP

I am often asked what finish to choose for the stone and my answer is commonly "all depends on the space and your habits and your sensitivity". So I hope this breakdown below will help you make a decision on what is the best finish for your project. No matter what finish you choose, you need to seal your counters! Keep in mind, when the stone you choose is polished, you can always hone, antique, flame or leather it but you can't go from a textured stone to polish.

## Polished

A polished finish is what most people imagine when they think of natural stone – smooth, shiny, and well, "polished" looking. The polished finish brings out the character and full color of the stone. Polished finish has a high-gloss, mirror-like shine that's very reflective, which draws attention to the stone. The finish showcases the flecks that are featured in the stone.

**Bonus:** This is a great finish to dress up an area. It is also a great finish if you need to bring light in your space as it will reflect more light.

**Negative:** This finish will show finger prints and etch marks the fastest.



## Honed

This finish is a bit softer, and does not reflect the high gloss intensity of polish. Although it has the smooth touch of a polished surface, it's less shiny for a more traditional, informal surface. This can be described as a matte finish.

**Bonus:** This finish will help with not showing the etch marks as fast. This finish tones down the brightness of a space especially if you have a lot of windows.

**Negative:** Some of the veins and patterns get more muted and the color nuances can sometimes disappear.





## Antiqued

A brushed finish gives the illusion of natural wear on the surface. Although it is more textured to the touch. If you like texture, this finish will give you more of a rough feel to the stone.

**Bonus:** Great finish if you want to make it look already patina.

**Negative:** Some stone may get rough to the touch due to the nature of the micas in the stone.



## Flamed

This finish is achieved using intense heat on the stone surface, creating a rough texture. This finish is often used on outdoor projects due to its tough exterior qualities.

**Bonus:** That is a great choice for outdoor spaces as they will be in direct contact with elements.

**Negative:** This finish is rough and doesn't work well with light stones as they will chip easily.



## Leathered

A leathered finish will bring out the stone's natural features, with a distinctive rough look that's created when an abrasive diamond brush is applied to a honed surface. The result is a soft, textured look reminiscent of leather with a likeness to suede.

**Bonus:** Great finish If you want to create a moody space as it works so well with dark stones

**Negative:** This finish is something a mix of shiny micas and some rough spaces with pits.



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## DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT: ABBI WILLIAMS DESIGN

### **Question 1: What makes you choose between stone and quartz?**

For my clients it really comes down to 2 factors the first is durability and long term use with zero maintenance. The second wanting is the warmth and character you can only get with natural stone. The look of man made products has visually improved over the years but the truth is quartz still lacks the overall depth and beauty that natural stone has.

### **Question 2: How do you incorporate stone or quartz in your designs?**

We're using entire slabs of material in ways we have never used before. Designs that go beyond solid slabs for shower walls... we are facing cabinets and facing bath tub bases with mitered edges. Even incorporating slabs into customized fireplace designs with multilayers and bevels. Floating benches in showers with mitered edges...even used in traditional showers with tile. It's this overlapping element of traditional and contemporary design.

### **Question 3: What Influences or inspires your design choices?**

As a designer I'm always looking for supportive elements that help "lean" the design and architecture. Using natural stone slabs not only as an accent but as a supporting element to an comprehensive tone. There again this concept extents the use of natural slabs beyond countertops.

### **Question 4: Do you have a favorite stone and what is the name?**

Yes it's from Ciot and the name is Bianco Paonazz Polished. I love the cool and warm tones that this versatile slab supports. (See below for the slab example)



For more info visit:  
<https://abbiwilliams.com>

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## DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT: ABBI WILLIAMS DESIGN

**Question 5: When choosing a stone or a quartz, do you choose first the color pallet or the movement of the stone? Which is predominant in your choice?**

Color pallet is the first step in narrowing down the options. Then focus on movement.

**Question 6: What is your opinion on manmade products?**

Most of my residential clients still prefer natural stones for their organic movements and warmth. However for durability I select made materials especially commercial projects such as restaurants, this is due to the harshness of solvents and cleaning products often used by restaurant staff as well as wear and tear from everyday customers.

**Question 7: Have you ever designed a room around a slab just because you loved it even if it was not your original concept? How did you handle that?**

Yes we have selected remnants of unique slabs as accents for behind ranges as a focal point. That was a modification from the original concept of a tile.

**Question 8: When you first look at a project do you know immediately what stone you will use, or does It take time?**

Every designer has a different design process. I know what tone I want for the stone... and how much movement we want to the overall slab. However i walk the slab yard to see what is available closer to fabrication as we start to refine the look with need with the most current inventory available.

**Question 9: Do you have any predictions on future stone design trends?**

I feel we're going to see slabs used beyond waterproofing needs. Areas such as extended wall cladding to areas such as Foyers.

